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Their isolation in the center of the desert resembles that of those South Sea Islanders among whom similar reminiscences of prehistoric ages have been preserved. But the Tuareg are the only example of a white population living as nearly as this under neolithic conditions; they are the men of Cro-magnon stepped forth from their cavern.

The archaism of their institutions forms a striking contrast with their high intellectual qualities. They have especially a highly developed geographical instinct. They answer geographical questions willingly and clearly, and illustrate their answers by drawing diagrams in the sand, so that they have often acted as competent guides to the explorers of their country. In Bissuel's book on the Adrar-Ahnet Mts., for instance, large parts were written from the dictation of a Tuareg captive in Algiers, and the map which accompanies that book is the reproduction of a relief map made by that same Tuareg during his captivity. This map was the only foundation, from 1885 to 1905 for the cartography of that country; even now, with our increased knowledge of the latter, it is, although imperfect, tolerably correct, and considering the circumstances under which it was made, it must be called marvelously good. The knowledge of the Tuareg, too, of the oases and watering places is so extensive and accurate that without the information obtained from them the exploration of the Sahara might even to-day be more imperfect, and include greater risks, than that of the Polar countries. To win that intelligent tribe for the service of the French would be a great step toward the civilization of the desert.

Of the Trans-Saharan Railroad, too, the author says a few words. Without feeling as enthusiastic over the project as some of his literary colleagues do, he is perfectly convinced, not only that such a road is possible, but also that the national as well as international advantages to be derived from it would be large enough to justify its construction.

M. K. GENTHE.

**Kamerun als Kolonie und Missionsfeld.** Von P. Steiner. Verlag der Basler Missionsbuchhandlung. Basel, 1909.

The little volume is only of missionary interest. It tells the history of the work of the different protestant missions in that country, especially of the Basel mission. The geographical part is not original, and the map places the missionary stations so much in the foreground that it has little value for general purposes. The index contains a list of literature on Cameroon, which, though not complete, has several references which may not be generally known.

M. K. GENTHE.

## ASIA

**An Illustrated Guide to the Federated Malay States.** Editor, Cuthbert Woodvillè Harrison, Malay Civil Service. 333 pp., map in pocket, illustrations and appendices. The Malay States Development Agency, London, 1911. 2s. 6d. 6½ x 4½.

This excellent little book describes the Malay Peninsula from north to south, from Penang to Singapore. The region seems to open an attractive new field to the globe trotter. The book says there is no unrest in Malaya. The country is quiet, the people content, and the town streets and country roads are perfectly safe. The people who are now called the aborigines, that is, the Negrito and Semi-Negrito wild tribes who inhabit the jungles, are the first inhabitants of the peninsula known to its history. But there existed before the Negrito, the pre-

historic men, of whom traces are found all over the world. Their stone implements may be seen in the Museum at Taiping. The peninsula itself is a curious historical museum, showing every grade of primitive culture, and here and there are monuments and inscriptions that were in existence before the Malays came in the Fifteenth century.

The book contains a large amount of authoritative information about the Federated Malay States, as well as ample guidance for the tourist. All important towns are described, motor trips are outlined, the opportunities for big game shooting are noted, the contents of museums outlined, and also the attractions of boat journeys on the Perak River, the native theatres, etc. Much attention is given to tin-mining, Para rubber planting and other industries. The illustrations, which include very pleasing colored views, and the map are excellent.

**Letters from China.** With Particular Reference to the Empress Dowager and the Women of China. By Sarah Pike Conger. xv and 392 pp., 80 illustrations, map and index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1909. \$2.75. 8½ x 5½.

Mrs. Conger, the wife of our former Minister to China, lived seven years in that Empire, during which she had many opportunities to gain clear ideas of the country and of the real character of the Chinese. Her book is composed of many of the letters she wrote to her relatives at home, and she arranged them for publication in the belief that they would help to correct widespread and erroneous views concerning China and the Chinese. Few books have been written that give so intimate a picture of the many things she describes, and her position opened for her the doors to many aspects of the land and people that are not seen by most travelers. The book has a valuable place among works on China in the English language.

**Strange Siberia Along the Trans-Siberian Railway.** A Journey from the Great Wall of China to the Skyscrapers of Manhattan. By Marcus Lorenzo Taft. 260 pp., illustrations and index. Eaton & Mains, New York, 1911. \$1. 7 x 4½.

A small book, with more meat than is found in many books of travel four times as large; nor does interest flag on any page. Its descriptions are clear, it gives the real atmosphere of town, farm, steppe and mountain, and shows the influences that are shaping men and things in the Russian Empire. The chapters on "Irkutsk" (population about 100,000), "The Jews in Russia" and "The Steppes" are especially noteworthy. It has a good index and is worth it.

**The Nāga Tribes of Manipur.** By T. C. Hodson. xiii and 212 pp., map, 17 illustrations, appendices and index. Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London, 1911. \$3. 8½ x 5½.

These tribes live by agriculture in the hill country which forms the larger part of Manipur in eastern Assam adjoining Burma. Each tribe has a definite place in the family of Tibeto-Burman languages and in their area is a rich variety of dialects, due to the confluence of at least two streams of language. The tribes do not intermarry, and thus variety in customs as well as in dialects is encouraged. But all are headhunters; and the author is careful not to lose sight of the essential unities that underly the diversities among these peoples. He collected his material ten years ago with great care and thoroughness, and